

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) A method for producing a high quality aromatic polycarbonate, which comprises subjecting to molten state polymerization a mixture of an aromatic dihydroxy compound and a diaryl carbonate in the presence of a catalyst,

    said mixture of the aromatic dihydroxy compound and the diaryl carbonate being obtained by a mixing step in which an aromatic dihydroxy compound and a catalyst, each being in at least one state selected from the group consisting of a solid state and a liquid state, are added to a diaryl carbonate in a molten state in the presence of an inert gas, thereby dissolving said aromatic dihydroxy compound and said catalyst in said molten diaryl carbonate.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said mixing step is performed in which the molar ratio of the diaryl carbonate to the aromatic dihydroxy compound is in the range of from 1.05 to 1.20, wherein the molar ratio has a tolerable variation in the range of  $\pm 0.005$ .

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the mixing in said mixing step is accompanied by a transesterification reaction between said aromatic dihydroxy compound and said diaryl carbonate, wherein the conversion of the aromatic dihydroxy compound is from 10 to 80 %.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein said mixing step is performed at a temperature of from 80 to 250 °C.

5. (Original) The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein, before said mixing step, said aromatic dihydroxy compound is treated with an inert gas having an oxygen concentration of not more than 10 ppm.

6. (Original) The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said inert gas in the presence of which said mixing step is performed has an oxygen concentration of not more than 10 ppm.